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2 MATTER: Modified Third Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Lehman
3 Brothers Holdings Inc. and its Affiliated Debtors

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 THE COURT: Be seated. It must be a big day; we have
3 a big crowd.

4 MR. MILLER: Sorry, sir?

5 THE COURT: I said it must be a big day. We have a
6 big crowd.

7 MR. MILLER: Nobody's standing, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: That's a good -- well, actually, somebody
9 may be standing over there.

10 MR. MILLER: Good morning, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Good morning.

12 MR. MILLER: Harvey Miller, Weil Gotshal & Manges, on
13 behalf of the debtors with Lori R. Fife, my partner. Your
14 Honor, this is a hearing pursuant to Section 1128 of the
15 Bankruptcy Code to consider confirmation of the debtors'
16 modified third amended joint plan dated December 5, 2011, Your
17 Honor, which we filed last evening which is ECF number 22931.

18 Just in support of this hearing, Your Honor, the
19 debtors have filed the declaration of John K. Suckow in support
20 of confirmation, ECF number 22759, dated November 29, 2011; the
21 declaration of Daniel J. Ehrmann in support of confirmation,
22 ECF number 22760, dated November 29, 2011; the declaration of
23 Steven J. Cohn in support of confirmation, ECF number 22761,
24 dated November 29, 2011; the declaration of Jane Sullivan on
25 behalf of Epiq Bankruptcy Solutions LLC regarding voting and

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1 tabulation of ballots cast on the debtors' third amended joint
2 plan, ECF number 22743, dated November 29, 2011; supplemented
3 declaration of Jane Sullivan on behalf of Epiq Bankruptcy
4 Solutions LLC regarding voting and tabulation of ballots cast
5 on debtors' third amended joint plan, ECF number 22972, dated
6 December 5, 2011; and the debtors' response to objections that
7 were interposed to confirmation, ECF number 22751, dated
8 November 29, 2011; plan supplements, amendments 1 through 7,
9 Your Honor, under ECF number 21254; a proposed order of
10 confirmation; and, in addition to that, Your Honor, the
11 debtors' statement as to post-effective date directors of LBHI,
12 ECF number 22931, dated December 5, 2011. In addition, Your
13 Honor, the debtors have filed two memoranda of law.

14 I was just thinking, Your Honor, that it seems almost
15 like yesterday that we started this journey. And in another
16 context, to some of us, it seems we have spent a lifetime
17 working on Lehman, particularly when you look at the time
18 records of some of the attorneys. It seems, Your Honor, we
19 must have done something right given the overwhelming
20 acceptance of the Chapter 11 plan. But nevertheless, Your
21 Honor, in my own mind, I look back to that fateful endless day
22 of September 14, 2008 that morphed into the day, the filing of
23 the Chapter 11 petition, the first Chapter 11 petition, by
24 Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. That was soon followed by
25 sequential Chapter 11 petitions by subsidiaries and affiliates

1 of LBHI.

2 I also see the chaos, the confusion and the distress
3 on the faces of hundreds of Lehman employees flooding into the
4 enterprises headquarters at 745 Seventh Avenue in their attempt
5 to gather their personal belongings before a potential lockdown
6 of the building and the beginning of the electronic filing of
7 the Chapter 11 petition.

8 And finally, the anxieties and apprehensions expressed
9 as to what is next. The challenges were daunting. It was
10 extremely unlikely that anyone present at that time or even
11 outside of that building thought that the chaos would soon be
12 relieved or that in slightly over three years, we would be
13 standing here today to consider the confirmation of the joint
14 Chapter 11 plan for the twenty-three Chapter 11 debtors.

15 It has been through the dedication, diligence and 24.7
16 obstinance of the debtors, their professionals, the unsecured
17 creditors' committee, and subsequently by other parties in
18 interest and, most importantly, the provisions of the
19 Bankruptcy Code that order evolved out of chaos. The full
20 magnitude of the issues that would emerge as a consequence of
21 the ill-conceived decision to sink the Lehman enterprise and
22 the collapse of the financial markets in those crisis weeks
23 following September 15, 2008 that had to be confronted was not
24 within the knowledge of any of the parties in interest or,
25 indeed, the government and the public at large. It was only

1 through the prism of these Chapter 11 cases that the full scope
2 of the multi-faceted issues, conflicts, international
3 relationships and ramifications came to the forefront. It was
4 only with the tools provided by the Bankruptcy Code and, with
5 due respect, the dedication exhibited by the Court and the
6 courage that the Court exhibited in administering these cases
7 that they have progressed to the point of confirmation. It was
8 pursuant to the Court's early suggestion that immediate
9 attention was focused on the international aspects of the
10 failed Lehman enterprise and the need to initiate dialogue and
11 resolution with foreign administrators, receivers and
12 fiduciaries for the over eighty Lehman entities subject to
13 foreign solvency proceedings in sixteen international
14 jurisdictions that were critical to the resolution of these
15 cases.

16 The formulation and adoption of the global close which
17 served as the foundation and point of departure in realizing
18 the amounts and substance of claims was as a result of that
19 suggestion. And it has formed one of the foundation stones
20 that enabled us to get to the point of confirmation.

21 The global protocol was an essential element in the
22 resolution of major issues that otherwise might have impeded
23 the consideration of the confirmation of the Chapter 11 plan
24 for a very extended time. Credit must be given to the foreign
25 administrators and fiduciaries and their professionals who

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1 extended themselves to negotiate in good faith and at arm's
2 length to reach accommodations that have helped to establish a
3 basic underlying premise of these Chapter 11 cases, the
4 avoidance of expensive protracted multi-jurisdictional
5 litigation that would indefinitely postpone the distribution of
6 dividends to holders of allowed claims against the Chapter 11
7 debtors.

8 It would be fair to say that these Chapter 11 cases
9 present an unprecedented epic in the annals of financial
10 disasters and the use of bankruptcy law to provide the
11 framework for the protection of all global parties in interest
12 and the disposition of critical issues as well as the
13 administration of extraordinarily difficult and often opaque
14 esoteric assets. The appointment of Anton Valukas as the
15 examiner and his voluminous report of thousands of pages that
16 was filed in February of 2010 dissipated a lot of the fog of
17 war that surrounded the Chapter 11 cases.

18 The record of these cases is replete with what has
19 been accomplished to date. Just to put it in the context, once
20 again, as a succinct preamble to today's confirmation hearing,
21 the debtors, with the overwhelming support of their economic
22 stakeholders, request the confirmation of their joint Chapter
23 11 plan for the twenty-three debtors. Over 67,000 proofs of
24 claim were initially filed against the debtors aggregating in
25 total an approximate amount of 1.2 trillion dollars. As noted

1 in prior proceedings, as a result of over 200 omnibus motions
2 objecting to filed claims, over 230,000 claims -- I'm sorry --
3 over 23,000 claims aggregating approximately 220 plus billion
4 dollars have either been withdrawn, reduced, reclassified,
5 disallowed or expunged. The claims resolution process
6 continues each day. The global settlement, which is a material
7 element of today's Chapter 11 plan, incorporated into the plan
8 and the bilateral settlements will very significantly reduce
9 the dollar amount of allowed claims by billions of dollars.

10 As the administration moved into 2010, the issues and
11 the conflicts among parties in interest became more clearly
12 defined, particularly, the overhanging issue of potential
13 substantive consolidation of the debtors and their affiliates
14 to create a single pool of assets and liabilities versus
15 treating each debtor and their affiliates as separate
16 independent legal entities that operated separate and distinct
17 businesses. The contentions and conflicting presentations
18 raged through most of 2010.

19 On March 15, 2010, as the statutory exclusive period
20 for plan filing was about to expire, the debtors filed a
21 proposed Chapter 11 plan that represented their initial and
22 preliminary views and was intended to act as a placeholder.
23 During the fall of 2010 and based upon the continuing
24 investigation and administration of the debtors' assets, in a
25 report to the Court as to the state of the estate, the debtors

1 indicated the more refined parameters for an amendment of their
2 plan. Subsequent to that report, meetings and discussions were
3 held with various parties in interest. An ad hoc group of LBHI
4 creditors had been organized and, apparently in response to
5 disagreements with the debtors' concept, on December 15, 2010,
6 filed a competing proposed Chapter 11 plan and a related
7 disclosure statement for a plan that contemplated substantive
8 consolidation of essentially all of the debtors.

9 Under the ad hoc plan, the equitable doctrine of
10 substantive consolidation was to be applied to all of the
11 respective assets and liabilities with minor exceptions
12 including certain of the debtors' foreign affiliates. They
13 would be consolidated, eliminating guaranty and intercompany
14 claims.

15 On January 25, 2011, the debtors filed their first
16 amended joint Chapter 11 plan. The debtors' plan did not
17 propose the substantive consolidation of the debtors and their
18 affiliates but rather sought to achieve a reconciliation of the
19 issues of substantive consolidation and related treatment of
20 the relationships among the debtors and their affiliates
21 through proposed mechanisms incorporated into the plan. Again,
22 agreement was elusive and negotiations continued. Substantive
23 consolidation became the leading dispute among the economic
24 stakeholders and the debtors.

25 The situation deteriorated to the point that on April

1 25, 2011, a proposed joint Chapter 11 plan and a related
2 disclosure statement was filed by twenty-three creditors who
3 together, with certain of their affiliates, had been referred
4 to as the non-con plan proponents or OpCo creditors.

5 The non-con plan took a diametrically opposite
6 approach for the reorganization of the debtors. The non-con
7 plan proposed a complete separation of the debtors based upon
8 the individual legal entity of each debtor and declared a total
9 denial of any risk of substantive consolidation for any of the
10 debtors.

11 The gap between the parties, particularly the ad hoc
12 group and the non-con plan proponents, appeared almost
13 insurmountable. The debtors attempted to demonstrate the
14 wisdom of their plan and continued to meet with representatives
15 of different groups. In a major effort to prevent these
16 Chapter 11 cases sinking into a morass of competing plans,
17 substantial litigation and attendant costs and loss of time to
18 the ultimate detriment of the economic stakeholders, in June of
19 2011, the debtors initiated intensive negotiations with all of
20 the major stockholders. These intensive June negotiations
21 successfully produced a consensus among many of the major
22 economic stakeholders including the overwhelming majority of
23 the foreign administrators, fiduciaries and receivers. The
24 negotiations resulted in the debtors modifying their proposed
25 Chapter 11 plan to accommodate the consensus agreed to, a

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1 consensus that include the global settlement of the issues of
2 substantive consolidation, recharacterization and the like that
3 had divided the parties and had produced the three competing
4 plans.

5 The global settlement, Your Honor, is the lynchpin of
6 the debtors' plan. Consistent with the consensus reached among
7 the major stakeholders and the debtors, the ad hoc group and
8 non-con plan proponents agreed to suspend consideration of
9 their alternative and competing plans pending the prosecution
10 of the debtors' joint plan. The debtors' joint plan does not
11 substantively consolidate any of the debtors or their
12 affiliates but rather incorporates a series of interconnected
13 concessions by stakeholders designed to expedite the
14 administration and conclusion of these Chapter 11 cases. Based
15 upon that consensus, the debtors quickly moved for the approval
16 of their joint disclosure statement and related orders to
17 implement the voting procedures and the prosecution of the
18 confirmation of their plan.

19 The disclosure statement approval hearing was held
20 before the Court on August 30, 2011. Over 110,000 notices of
21 the hearing were transmitted to parties in interest. Numerous
22 objections were raised to the proposed disclosure statement
23 that were promptly addressed by the debtors and their
24 professionals so that by the time of the hearing, the number of
25 objections to the disclosure statement was de minimis. If I

1 recall correctly, the objections that remained outstanding as
2 of the hearing date and heard by the Court was less than
3 fifteen.

4 To use the Court's word, it was miraculous that the
5 debtors and their professionals were able to muster the
6 exhibited level of support given the nature, issues and
7 contentions that had permeated the cases. The Court
8 particularly noted that the debtors' plan had been able to
9 obtain by July 1, 2011 plan support agreements executed by
10 forty-seven major claimants asserting over one hundred billion
11 dollars of claims against the Chapter 11 debtors.

12 After hearing the remaining objections and some
13 modifications made by the debtors to the proposed disclosure
14 statement and the debtors' plan, the Court approved the
15 disclosure statement. And on September 1, 2011, the order of
16 approval of the disclosure statement and the solicitation order
17 were entered.

18 As the solicitation process proceeded, the debtors
19 continued to consider the views of their economic stakeholders
20 and proceeded to explore and make further refinements that
21 would accommodate the comments and questions when appropriate.
22 As noted by the submissions filed by the debtors in support of
23 confirmation, the number of executed plan support agreements
24 has now risen to more than 150 covering creditors asserting
25 claims of over 450 billion/million dollars.

1 At this point, Your Honor, it's almost amazing to
2 report that there is only one objection to confirmation
3 remaining. Indeed, Your Honor, the one objection, which is
4 noted in the agenda for today's hearing, there's even a change
5 in that respect, Your Honor. In the agenda for today's
6 hearing, the unresolved objection is referred to as the
7 objection of China Development Industrial Bank and Dotson
8 Investments. That objection, Your Honor, now is limited to
9 Dotson Investments. The objection with respect to China
10 Development Industrial Bank has been withdrawn.

11 So the objection that remains, Your Honor, is the
12 objection of Dotson Investments Ltd. And there are two claims
13 filed by Dotson Investments. And together, Your Honor, those
14 two claims are less than a million dollars. And the claims
15 that have been filed by Dotson are a claim in the amount of
16 \$653,141.31 against LBHI based upon a guaranty of bonds issued
17 by Lehman Brothers UK Capital Funding LP and guaranties by
18 Lehman Brothers PLC. That's claim number 47171.

19 And the other claim is a claim in the amount of
20 \$237,304.48 against LBHI based on a guaranty of the Lehman
21 program securities issued by Lehman Brothers UK Capital Funding
22 IV LP. That's claim number 47035.

23 As evidenced, Your Honor, by the declarations of Epiq
24 Bankruptcy Solutions LLC, dated November 29, 2011, and the
25 supplemental declaration, which is dated December 4, I believe,

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1 Your Honor, the level of acceptance of the Chapter 11 plan is
2 overwhelming. Over 75,000 creditors asserting a total of over
3 405 billion dollars in claims voted on the joint plan. Of
4 those creditors who voted, in the aggregate, 71,553 creditors
5 accepted the plan. In the aggregate, Your Honor, that number
6 equals ninety-five percent of the number of creditors who
7 actually voted on the plan. And those accepting creditors, in
8 the aggregate, represent 98.68 percent in the amount of the
9 creditor claims that were voted.

10 And in the supplemental declaration of Epiq Business
11 Solutions LLC, Your Honor, it sets out as to each debtor, each
12 of the twenty-three debtors, the votes as to that particular
13 case.

14 Now, at this point in the proceedings, Your Honor, and
15 anticipating a great more objections, we had planned to go into
16 a detailed presentation of the provisions of the plan and then
17 get to the objections and deal with the objections. Ms. Fife
18 is prepared, Your Honor, to present the overview of the plan,
19 the acceptance level if Your Honor desires.

20 THE COURT: Well, I read everything at the time that
21 we had lots of objections. And it seemed that every time I
22 read an objection, the objection was resolved. I'm certainly
23 personally familiar with the background of the case, the
24 circumstances that led to the development of the plan, the
25 structure of the plan and issues that relate to the global

1 settlement and the bilateral settlements. However, it's your
2 record.

3 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, I take Your Honor's comments
4 seriously. Ms. Fife?

5 MS. FIFE: Good morning, Your Honor. Lori Fife from
6 Weil Gotshal & Manges for the debtors. I'll try to keep this
7 brief since Your Honor is familiar with the plan.

8 Generally, the plan is a joint plan but constitutes
9 twenty-three separate plans, one for each of the Chapter 11
10 debtors. As Mr. Miller described, the plan does not
11 substantively consolidate the twenty-three debtors. The
12 allowed claims against each debtor will be satisfied primarily
13 from the assets of that debtor.

14 The plan incorporates separate waterfall
15 classification and distribution schemes for each of the debtors
16 that strictly follow the statutory priorities under the
17 Bankruptcy Code. The plan separately classifies priority
18 nontax claims, secured claims, unsecured claims and equity
19 interest.

20 As to the participating debtors, which are LBHI, LBSF,
21 LCPI, LOTC, LBCS and LBCC, the plan also provides for
22 administrative convenience classes. In total, the plan
23 includes 161 classes of which 134 classes were entitled to vote
24 on the plan. There are seventeen classes in LBHI, nine classes
25 in LBSF and LCPI, eight classes in LBCS, LOTC and LBCC and six

1 classes in the other subsidiary debtors.

2 After satisfying or reserving in full for secured,
3 administrative and priority claims and the payment of
4 convenience claims, in accordance with the plan, each debtor
5 will distribute its available cash to unsecured creditors on a
6 pro rata basis. In some cases, the cash will be reallocated in
7 accordance with the global settlement which I will describe.

8 The global settlement resolves various plan issues
9 affecting the creditors and incorporates an integrated
10 negotiated resolution.

11 What are the plan issues? The plan issues addressed
12 by the global settlement include: whether the equitable
13 doctrine of substantive consolidation may be applied to the
14 debtors and their affiliates; the characterization of
15 intercompany balances owed by LBHI to the subsidiary debtors --
16 by the subsidiary debtors -- sorry; the allowed amounts of
17 affiliate claims; the ownership and rights of various debtors
18 and their affiliates with respect to certain assets; the
19 allocation of costs and expenses of administration among the
20 debtors; and corporate governance of the post-effective date
21 debtors.

22 In order to resolve the plan issues in January of
23 2011, the debtors proposed a settlement in their second amended
24 plan. That plan introduced a structure and certain mechanisms
25 to implement a global settlement that actually remain the heart

1 of the plan today. That plan separately classifies unsecured
2 claims against the debtors based upon the nature of the claims.
3 So claims asserted by an affiliate of the debtors are
4 classified separately from claims of third parties. Guaranty
5 claims against LBHI are separately classified from direct
6 claims against LBHI. Senior and subordinated claims are
7 separately classified in order to strictly comply with Section
8 510 of the Bankruptcy Code.

9 The treatment of these various unsecured claims is
10 intended to take into account the risks of the plan issues that
11 I just described. For example, guaranty claims and affiliate
12 claims would be eliminated if substantive consolidation of the
13 debtors and their affiliates was directed.

14 The resolution of the plan issues is implemented
15 through various mechanics of the global settlement. The
16 primary settlement mechanism in the plan is the plan adjustment
17 provision. Specifically, guaranty claims asserted against LBHI
18 by third parties reallocate twenty percent of their recoveries
19 to account for the risk that such claims would be eliminated in
20 the event of substantive consolidation.

21 This was a negotiated percentage among the debtors and
22 the creditors' committee regarding the risk of substantive
23 consolidation. Claims against the subsidiary debtors, which
24 would receive lower recoveries as substantive consolidation was
25 ordered, also are required to reallocate a percentage of their

1 recoveries to direct creditors of LBHI. Then the direct third
2 party unsecured creditors of LBHI actually receive the
3 reallocated funds or the plan adjustment, as we call it, as
4 they would benefit in the event of substantive consolidation,
5 essentially, because of the elimination of the dilution caused
6 by the affiliate and guaranty claims against LBHI and the
7 additional recoveries they would realize from the pooled assets
8 of the consolidated entities.

9 The second settlement mechanism in the plan is the
10 resolution and treatment of affiliate claims; in particular,
11 guaranty claims asserted by affiliates against LBHI which were
12 filed in enormous amounts. To take into account the risks to
13 such claims including the debtors' challenges to the validity
14 and enforceability of the guaranty claims of affiliates, as
15 well as the substantive consolidation risk, the plan provides
16 that affiliate claims against LBHI are to be allowed pursuant
17 to settlement, if possible, or they must be litigated. The
18 bilateral settlement agreements, many of which were
19 subsequently entered into in connection with the plan, are
20 consistent with the principles of the global settlement and
21 result in very significant reductions to the amounts asserted.

22 Lastly, the plan proposes to allow LBHI's claims
23 against the subsidiary debtors in an amount equal to eighty
24 percent of those claims. This reduction only applies to LBHI's
25 claims that are based on intercompany funding by LBHI and not

1 to claims based on derivatives or repos. The mechanism
2 resolves potential extended litigation that could be brought to
3 recharacterize LBHI's claims from debt to equity.

4 In response to the January 2nd amended plan, many
5 creditors, including the ad hoc group, the non-con proponents
6 and certain LBT noteholders, took opposing positions as to the
7 debtors' proposed resolution. In order to achieve consensus
8 and avoid cost and prejudicial delay of litigation and reach a
9 rational economic resolution, the debtors intensified their
10 efforts and called all the major stakeholders to the meetings
11 that Mr. Miller described in June of 2011.

12 The meetings were robust. Negotiations proceeded in
13 good faith and at arm's length. Over 125 individuals attended
14 including principals, attorneys and financial advisors for many
15 of the major stakeholders. In fact, we barely had a conference
16 room that was big enough to fit everybody.

17 There were two formal sessions and countless hours of
18 negotiations that followed to finalize the document and
19 consensus was ultimately achieved. As a result of the June
20 meetings, all of the parties agreed to adopt what was the
21 settlement mechanisms proposed in the January plan and to
22 support confirmation of the debtors' plan including the global
23 settlement but subject to certain required adjustments. Each
24 of these adjustments was painstakingly negotiated and is highly
25 sensitive to changes. In that sense, the global settlement

1 must be viewed holistically.

2 There were seven major settlement mechanisms that were
3 added to the debtors' plan in June in order to achieve the
4 global settlement. Pursuant to one settlement mechanism, it
5 was agreed that the first one hundred million dollars of
6 distributions that LBHI receives from each of LCPI and LBSF
7 will automatically be distributed to the third party unsecured
8 creditors of those entities. In addition, the first seventy
9 million that is recovered by LBSF on its assets in excess of
10 14,156,000,000 will be distributed only to unsecured creditors
11 of LBSF. Effectively, LBHI and the other participating debtors
12 who have claims against LBSF have agreed to waive their rights
13 up to seventy million dollars of value from proceeds of assets,
14 if any, above the debtors' projections of recoveries from LBSF
15 in exchange for other benefits that they will receive from the
16 global settlement.

17 Pursuant to another settlement mechanism, LBSF will
18 have an allowed administrative expense claim against LBHI in
19 the amount of 300 million dollars. This claim is in
20 recognition of the fact that any settlement of a derivates
21 contract, which in almost every case has a related guaranty
22 claim, benefited not only LBSF but also LBHI. Up to now, the
23 administrative expenses related to such settlements have been
24 charged solely this LBSF; this mechanism apportions the
25 administrative expenses appropriately.

1 The treatment and allowance of the claims of certain
2 designated entities, the two Racers Trusts and Fenway, is
3 another settlement mechanism to resolve disputes relating to
4 the amount and allowance of those claims asserted by those
5 designated entities along with the risks of substantive
6 consolidation to those entities, the parties agreed to a single
7 claim of the Racers Trust against LCPI in the amount of five
8 billion, a deficiency claim of the Racers Trust against LBSF in
9 the amount of 1.9 billion and a single claim of Racers Trust
10 against LBHI in the amount of 1.9 billion. Fenway Trust has a
11 claim against LCPI in the amount of 230 million. Importantly,
12 each of these claims apply the plan adjustment.

21 In addition, as part of the settlement, the parties
22 agreed that the structured securities valuation methodologies
23 proposed by the debtors will be applied to the structured
24 security claims of the plan support creditors.

25 Lastly, as part of the settlement mechanisms, the

1 parties agreed to modify corporate governance provisions
2 including, among other things, the appointment of the director
3 selection committee comprised of nine individuals. One member
4 was chosen by the debtors and the balance chose by various
5 creditor groups and the selection of the directors of LBHI by
6 that committee prior to confirmation. We filed a notice of
7 those directors yesterday, Your Honor.

8 All of the described mechanisms form the basis of the
9 global settlement and the foundation of the plan. The plan
10 also contains standard provisions such as dealing with
11 distributions, reserves, provisions for disputed claims,
12 executory contracts, retention of jurisdiction and conditions
13 to the effective date which currently, the debtors believe,
14 will occur no earlier than January 31st.

15 As Mr. Miller mentioned, based upon the agreement to
16 the global settlement, the plan is overwhelmingly supported by
17 the debtors' economic stakeholders as evidenced by the plan
18 support agreements, the large number of pleadings filed in
19 support of the global settlement, in support of the plan and
20 confirmation and the creditors' vote to accept the plan.

21 I don't think there's a need to go through the vote.
22 Mr. Miller did that already.

23 As to each of the debtors, all of the requirements of
24 Section 1129 have been satisfied including feasibility, good
25 faith and best interest. Your Honor, I'm prepared to go

1 through in more detail regarding each of the provisions of
2 Section 1129(a) and (b) of the Bankruptcy Code. However, given
3 where we are, we're prepared to rely solely on the memorandum
4 and declarations which Mr. Miller referenced earlier submitted
5 in support of confirmation unless Your Honor has any specific
6 questions.

7 THE COURT: I don't have any specific questions as to
8 the declarations that I've read. And I accept those
9 declarations as direct evidence in support of confirmation.
10 (Declaration of John K. Suckow in support of confirmation was
11 hereby received into evidence as of this date.)
12 (Declaration of Daniel J. Ehrmann in support of confirmation
13 was hereby received into evidence as of this date.)
14 (Declaration of Steven J. Cohn in support of confirmation was
15 hereby received into evidence as of this date.)
16 (Declaration and supplemental declaration of Jane Sullivan on
17 behalf of Epiq Bankruptcy Solutions, LLC, regarding voting and
18 tabulation of ballots were hereby received into evidence as of
19 this date.)

20 THE COURT: I do have a question as to how you propose
21 to deal with the remaining objection of Dotson. And I don't
22 know whether or not that objection is outstanding because of
23 some inability in communicating with the client or because of a
24 concerted view on the part of that creditor that it wishes to
25 stand up and fight the tide.

1 MS. FIFE: Yeah. Your Honor, we have had numerous
2 conversations with the attorney representing Dotson. And he's
3 here in the courtroom today. Unfortunately, we were unable to
4 reach a settlement with Dotson where, based on the record that
5 we've put before the Court today, we're prepared to allow the
6 attorney to go forward and make his case. Is that okay?

7 MR. MILLER: I would like to address that with Your
8 Honor, if I may.

9 MS. FIFE: Oh. Okay. Actually, we also wanted to
10 introduce into evidence the declarations.

11 MR. MILLER: He said they're admitted.

12 MS. FIFE: Oh, okay.

13 MR. MILLER: If Your Honor please, Harvey Miller
14 again. As Ms. Fife indicated, Your Honor, it wasn't for lack
15 of effort. The effort that was made over the period since the
16 approval of the disclosure statement is outstanding.

17 In addition to the twenty formal objections that were
18 filed, Your Honor, there were many threats of objections which
19 were dissipated through these intensive negotiations. There
20 were objections, Your Honor, based -- many objections, I should
21 say, that were based upon assumption of executory contracts and
22 cure amounts which have been deferred to a date, I believe, in
23 February. And those really are not confirmation objections,
24 Your Honor. So that's out of the picture.

25 Of the twenty formal objections, we are left with one

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1 objection, Your Honor. And that is the objection of Dotson.
2 And the Dotson objection, Your Honor, is based upon -- let me
3 just find my notes, sir -- three basic points. There is no
4 risk of substantive consolidation of LBSF -- I'm sorry --
5 that's the CDIB. But the global settlement and plan adjustment
6 as to Dotson is unjustified and improper. The plan adjustment
7 of twenty percent as applied to Dotson pursuant to the global
8 settlement is unreasonable.

9 So the basic underlying objection here, Your Honor, is
10 that there is absolutely no risk of substantive consolidation
11 as it relates to the entities involved in the Dotson claims.

12 THE COURT: In that sense, it's an objection that's
13 comparable to a number of other objections that were filed but
14 withdrawn.

15 MR. MILLER: That's correct, Your Honor. And I might
16 say, in connection with the Dotson claims, Your Honor, those
17 claims relate to the purchase of preferred securities that were
18 issued one in the case of Lehman Brothers UK Funding IV LP and
19 one in the case of Lehman Brothers UK Capital Funding LP. The
20 smaller claim of 237,000 dollars is already subject to
21 objection. And the basis of the objection, Your Honor, is that
22 this is not a creditors' claim but an equity claim based upon
23 the preferred securities. A similar objection will be
24 interposed to the larger claim, Your Honor.

25 So what we have, Your Honor, is an objection,

1 basically, to the global settlement, that the global settlement
2 should not be approved because it essentially results in
3 inequitable treatment of Dotson. And I think, in that context,
4 Your Honor, we should bear in mind that bankruptcy courts are
5 empowered to approve settlements if they are in the best
6 interest of the estate. And a settlement need not be in the
7 best possible outcome for the debtor but must not fall beneath
8 the lowest point in the range of reasonableness as the court of
9 appeals in this circuit has determined in Cosoff v. Rodman and
10 in the Drexel case.

11 Compromises are a normal part of reorganization. As
12 we have set forth in great detail in the memorandum of law that
13 was filed in support of the compromise and settlement. So we
14 have to look, Your Honor, at the factors that the Court should
15 consider in relation to the approval of this global settlement
16 which is the lynchpin to this plan. One is the probability of
17 success. And what are we talking about, Your Honor? We're
18 talking about a twenty percent risk that substantive
19 consolidation might be directed by a bankruptcy court. That's
20 not a very high threshold. And, Your Honor, we have filed, and
21 Your Honor has taken as evidence of the debtors' affirmative
22 case, the declaration of Mr. Suckow. And that declaration,
23 Your Honor, is quite voluminous with the exhibits which takes
24 about four inches. And Mr. Suckow's gone through, in detail,
25 the facts -- and he tried to present to Your Honor a very

1 balanced view. Lehman operated, as has been stated in this
2 court many, many times, as a single enterprise under the name
3 Lehman Brothers.

4 The issuance of guaranties by Lehman in connection
5 with transactions, particularly under ISDA contracts and
6 derivatives, were dependent completely on the issuance of
7 guaranties.

8 The entities -- the so-called legal entities, Lehman
9 did not do business based upon legal entities but business
10 lines.

11 By the same token, Mr. Suckow has pointed out, yes,
12 electronically you could say there are books and records.
13 There is no evidence that has been produced in this court or
14 any place that absent the guaranties that were issued by the
15 holding company that anybody would have done business with one
16 of those thinly capitalized entities. Legal entities -- as a
17 matter of fact, Your Honor, Lehman had 8,000 subsidiaries.
18 They were not all active. And probably as of the date of the
19 commencement of the case, it was less than 4,000 that had some
20 function.

21 Risk was assigned centrally. Decisions were made
22 centrally all as set forth, Your Honor, in Mr. Suckow's
23 declaration and as supported by Mr. Cohn and Mr. Ehrmann.

24 So in terms of whether there is a twenty percent risk,
25 Your Honor, in the legal world, I would have to say, Your

1 Honor, certitude on the part of somebody doesn't mean
2 certainty. There is always a risk. Every time attorneys walk
3 into a courtroom, there's a risk. I've lost a lot of cases I
4 thought I should have won. And I've won a lot of cases I
5 thought I should lose. So there's always the risk in
6 litigation. And a twenty percent risk given the facts that are
7 established through the declarations that we have put in in
8 this case, Your Honor, is not a major obstacle. So we think --
9 we submit to Your Honor that the twenty percent risk is there.

10 The second factor, difficulties of collecting any
11 litigated judgment, that's not really a factor in this
12 situation. But if substantive consolidation was directed,
13 there would be difficulties in corralling, if I can call it
14 that, foreign entities who are subject to their own insolvency
15 proceedings in different jurisdictions, not that it's
16 insurmountable, at least in our opinion.

17 The complex -- number 3, the complexity and likely
18 duration and expense and inconvenience and delay. The
19 litigation that would erupt, Your Honor, if this plan is not
20 confirmed, as demonstrated by the polar extremes of the ad hoc
21 group's plan and the OpCo creditors' plan, and just reading the
22 disclosure statements relating to those two competing plans
23 demonstrates the extent of the issues and the time that would
24 be devoted to litigating those issues -- as Your Honor may
25 recall, an attempt was made when we were in a competitive plan

1 situation for a protocol on discovery.

2 THE COURT: I think it was more than attempt. We
3 actually had one.

4 MR. MILLER: It's relative in one's mind. In any
5 event, Your Honor, it took four months to get to that document
6 which you think we finally accomplished without a single day of
7 discovery, Your Honor. No depositions were taken and we had
8 exhausted four months. The request for documents were
9 astounding, Your Honor. The burden that was put on the estate
10 to create a data room.

11 So in that context, Your Honor, if we are going to
12 litigate, if we have to litigate all these issues, one, it's
13 going to be a long, long time; two, it's going to be very, very
14 expensive. It's going to be multi-faceted, multi-party. I'll
15 just use an example, Your Honor, without -- with all due
16 respect, the litigation involving JPMorgan which has now been
17 pending for over a year, I believe, and I don't know where the
18 trial date is. It's probably moved back someplace into 2013
19 'cause I know my deposition isn't scheduled till next year.

20 It's just beyond dispute, Your Honor, that the
21 complexity and duration and expense and inconvenience of
22 litigation would be overwhelming. And what's that in effect,
23 Your Honor? It delays distributions to creditors. And there
24 is a time value to money. And as I said before, Your Honor,
25 nobody thought on September 15, 2008, as Your Honor was waiting

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1 for us to come down to court to anoint -- no. I shouldn't say
2 that -- for you to start acting in the case -- we didn't get
3 here till Tuesday -- nobody thought that this would be over in
4 three plus years. In fact, we got a number of e-mails
5 yesterday saying I don't believe it.

6 So --

7 THE COURT: Well, it's not over yet.

8 MR. MILLER: No. It's not over yet, Your Honor. And
9 unfortunately, there is a post-effective date administration
10 that will occur.

11 Number 4, Your Honor, the proportion of creditors who
12 do not object to the settlement or who affirmatively support
13 the proposed settlement versus the less than one million
14 dollars in opposition to the settlement. There are twenty-nine
15 pleadings, Your Honor, in support of the settlement. There are
16 PSA -- plan support agreements by creditors holding more than
17 450 billion dollars in claims, Your Honor. Against that, we
18 have the one objection that is less than one million dollars of
19 two elements of a claim that are going to be -- that one is
20 disputed and one will be disputed by the debtor as equity
21 claims.

22 Factor number 5, Your Honor, the competence and
23 experience of attorneys and other professionals who support the
24 settlement. This was not a settlement, Your Honor, that was
25 derived or formulated exclusively by the debtors. The

1 unsecured creditors' committee was an active, active
2 participant in the development of these compromises and these
3 settlements. And credit must be given, Your Honor, to the ad
4 hoc group and Mr. Uzzi's participation in these negotiations as
5 well as the OpCo creditors. The original meetings, everybody
6 had to wear a flack jacket. That soon dissipated.

7 So the competence and experience of attorneys and
8 other professionals who support the settlement is outstanding,
9 Your Honor. Leading members of the bar and expert
10 practitioners in this area.

11 Number 6, Your Honor: the benefits to be received by
12 affected parties. This, again, Your Honor, is self evident.
13 The recognition of guarantied claims, the reallocation, the
14 plan adjustment resolves all of the issues which would lead to
15 expensive and protracted litigation. So there are huge
16 benefits. And there are benefits to Dotson. If Dotson is able
17 to establish a creditors' claim, Dotson's claim is based on a
18 guaranty. If there was sub-con, that guaranty would be
19 eliminated. So there is a real benefit flowing to Dotson if it
20 can establish it has a creditors' claim which is disputed.

21 Number 7, Your Honor: the extent to which this
22 settlement is the product of arm's length bargaining and not
23 the product of fraud or collusion. Well, again, Your Honor,
24 that factor is self-evident. These were extensive
25 negotiations. They were bitter at times. There was even

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1 yelling at times. But eventually, rationality came to the
2 forefront and these settlements were accomplished.

3 And the last factor, Your Honor: the debtors'
4 informed judgment that the settlement is fair and reasonable.
5 Your Honor, based upon the facts that have been established
6 here through the declarations, it's clear the debtors' informed
7 judgment is that the settlement is fair and reasonable and is
8 recommended as part of the confirmation of the Chapter 11 plan.

9 In terms of substantive consolidation, Your Honor, the
10 equitable doctrine permits a Court in a bankruptcy case
11 involving one or more related corporate entities in appropriate
12 circumstances to disregard separate identity of corporate
13 entities and to consolidate and pool their assets and
14 liabilities and treat them as though held and incurred by one
15 entity.

16 The Drexel-Burnham case, Your Honor, which was in this
17 district, is a comparative to the Lehman case. And in the
18 debtors' memorandum of law, Your Honor, I think it's at page 15
19 and also cited in Mr. Suckow's declaration, we have side-by-
20 side put the Drexel factors and how they apply to Lehman.

21 There is no contrary evidence, Your Honor. There is
22 no evidence by the objector of any reliance upon the separate
23 identities of any of the Lehman entities.

24 Consistent with the Drexel matrix, which is on pages
25 16 and 17 of the debtors' memorandum of law, a global

1 settlement based upon a twenty percent risk of substantive
2 consolidation being directed is, as I said, not a high
3 threshold. The nature of the Lehman enterprise and the
4 entanglement of its affiliates which evidences a single
5 enterprise accentuate the risk that there is at least a twenty
6 percent risk in any litigation and litigation that would be
7 expensive to conduct and, more importantly, delayed
8 distributions to the holders of allowed claims.

9 The record reflects that few, if any, of the Lehman
10 affiliates, other than LBHI and perhaps LBI, could stand on
11 their own and access credit. The objector has not produced an
12 iota of evidence that it relied upon the separate identity and
13 creditor of any Lehman entity. Rather, it's clear from the
14 claims that have been filed by Dotson that it did business with
15 the Lehman entities because of the guaranties issued by LBHI.

16 The debtors have attempted to present a very evenly
17 balanced presentation that demonstrates the risk of potential
18 substantive consolidation and the factors that might support a
19 denial of substantive consolidation. Due consideration has
20 been given to the strengths and weaknesses of the issues.

21 In the context of all of that, Your Honor, this is a
22 compromise and settlement. It does not require a mini trial.
23 All that has to be held by Your Honor is that the proposed
24 compromise and settlement does not fall below the lowest range
25 of reasonableness. We submit to Your Honor that it does fall

1 way above the lowest range of reasonableness.

2 In addition, Your Honor, as part of the global
3 settlement are the bilateral settlements which we have set
4 forth at length in the submissions to the Court. We would
5 submit also that each of those settlements -- and there are no
6 objections to any of those settlements, Your Honor -- and the
7 settlement with the LBIE administrators was a major step in the
8 advancement of the progress of this case. Very, very
9 difficult. Consumed an awful lot of time. But there's not one
10 objection to any of the bilateral settlements. We don't think
11 it's necessary, Your Honor, to burden the Court by going
12 through each of those settlements. In light of that, there are
13 no objections to those settlements.

14 THE COURT: There's no need to do that.

15 MR. MILLER: I beg your pardon.

16 THE COURT: There's no need to go through the
17 bilateral settlements.

18 MR. MILLER: So, Your Honor, in the context of the
19 declarations which represent the affirmative case of the
20 debtors in support of confirmation of the Chapter 11 cases and
21 acknowledging that the global settlement is the lynchpin to the
22 plan of reorganization and the overwhelming acceptance of
23 creditors that demonstrates that we must -- as I said before,
24 we must have done something right in this case, we suggest --
25 don't suggest -- we ask Your Honor to confirm the Chapter 11

1 case and approve the global settlement. Thank you.

2 THE COURT: Fine. Now I have -- I'm about to make a
3 brief statement. You can sit down.

4 MR. MILLER: You have my permission, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: You can sit down if you'd like.

6 I've read everything that I could get my hands on
7 relating to confirmation including various statements that have
8 been made by parties in interest including the creditors'
9 committee, the ad hoc committee, counsel for LBIE. I don't
10 mean to leave anybody out that's important. But I read
11 substantial briefs and statements in support of confirmation.
12 This is, in effect, a time when parties who might wish to be
13 heard in support of confirmation would have that opportunity.
14 This is also a time when counsel for Dotson, the last objector
15 standing, might reasonably explain why this objection is still
16 being prosecuted and how counsel intends to proceed. If that
17 objection is going to be diligently and ardently pressed, I'd
18 like to know how that's going to happen. I think it's
19 important for us to know that either before hearing from those
20 who might wish to say a few words in support of the plan.

21 MR. MILLER: We agree, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: So let me hear what counsel for Dotson
23 wishes to say other than "I'm sorry".

24 MR. SULLIVAN: Your Honor, James Sullivan of Moses &
25 Singer, counsel for Dotson Investment Ltd.

1 THE COURT: You're in a very tough spot, Mr. Sullivan.
2 You know that.

3 MR. SULLIVAN: Pardon?

4 THE COURT: I said you're in a very tough spot.

5 MR. SULLIVAN: I understand that, Your Honor. I just
6 wanted to respond to your question that you posed. I know we
7 kind of got a little bit far afield of it when we started to
8 get into arguments regarding the settlement. But you had asked
9 about the discussions between Dotson and the debtor. We are
10 amenable to a compromise but thus far have not received any
11 offer from the debtors. So if --

12 THE COURT: Is this about horse trading or is this
13 about a legitimate concern that the compromise reflected in the
14 global settlement is not fair and appropriate under all the
15 circumstances?

16 MR. SULLIVAN: Your Honor, I think we have a very
17 sound objection. You know, I stand here alone, Your Honor.
18 But I've heard from many other creditors who are not here
19 before you today, many of them smaller creditors without the
20 financial incentive to come up here and try to stand in front
21 of a train that looks like it's coming down the tracks right at
22 us. So I commend the debtors for resolving an unbelievable
23 number of objections. And I have no qualm that they really did
24 an inordinately good job in trying to resolve all these claims
25 and objections. But I didn't want the record to reflect that

1 the creditor that I represent is being obstinate or
2 unreasonable in an effort to kind of blackmail the debtors into
3 getting something to which it's not entitled. As far as --

4 THE COURT: You absolutely have the right to present
5 your objection and to prosecute it fully. My question to you
6 is how you intend to do that.

7 MR. SULLIVAN: Your Honor, the way I see it, there are
8 primarily two issues that our objection gets to. The first one
9 debtors' counsel addressed to a large degree. And that's the
10 settlement as it pertains to the twenty percent give-up by
11 certain creditors in favor of other creditors.

12 The second issue that I'll be addressing today is the
13 best interest of creditors test. For similar reasons, I don't
14 believe that the debtors will be able to satisfy that test
15 because the way that their liquidation analysis is performed,
16 it continues to use classes as if the Chapter 7 trustee would
17 basically adopt the plan that the debtors are proposing here
18 today. And therefore, similarly situated creditors are not
19 receiving similar treatment. So if you were to go through the
20 liquidation analysis, you would see that a general unsecured
21 creditor would be receiving a different distribution than other
22 general unsecured represented in other classes. So there's a
23 defect in the liquidation analysis. And if you were to take
24 away some of the assumptions set forth in that analysis, I
25 think Your Honor would surely come to the conclusion that

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1 Dotson is not better off in this Chapter 11 pursuant to this
2 plan as opposed to a Chapter 7 where it's not going to be
3 subjected to, among other things, a twenty percent give-up in
4 favor of other creditor classes.

5 THE COURT: Now I ask you whether or not your
6 objection is going to be based purely on legal argument or
7 whether or not you intend to either offer evidence or cross-
8 examine any of the witnesses whose declarations I've already
9 accepted.

10 MR. SULLIVAN: I would intend to cross-examine two
11 witnesses, Your Honor. I believe the -- I think it was Mr. --
12 I'm not sure how to pronounce it -- Suckow who I believe was
13 the witness predominantly responsible for giving testimony with
14 respect to the nature of the settlement and the reasonableness
15 of the settlement. And the second witness would be the
16 debtors' witness who would propose to support the assumptions
17 underlying the liquidation analysis and the end result of that
18 analysis.

19 THE COURT: Is there anything more at this time?

20 MR. SULLIVAN: No, Your Honor. And that would just be
21 followed by argument.

22 THE COURT: All right. I think this would be a
23 reasonable time to hear from those who have been active in the
24 plan process who may wish to say a few words or they can simply
25 rely on their papers. It's up to them.

1 MR. DUNNE: Thank you, Your Honor. Good morning. For
2 the record, it's Dennis Dunne of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley &
3 McCloy on behalf of the official committee of unsecured
4 creditors. For the most part, we will rely on our pleadings
5 but I'll say a few brief words.

6 Let me start with one reflection on the path to
7 confirmation. As I was saying to Mr. Miller recently, who
8 would have thought three and a quarter years ago that when we
9 would begin the confirmation hearing, we'd have near universal
10 support among the creditors for our plan. These cases, as Your
11 Honor no doubt vividly recalls, began amidst chaos,
12 uncertainty, personal anguish and rapidly declining asset
13 values. The first few months of the case were frenetic and
14 fixated almost exclusively on selling assets that were in the
15 process of vanishing completely and stabilizing other
16 properties for future disposition or monetization after values
17 had rebounded.

18 When the dust finally settled after several large
19 asset sales, the committee and the debtors encountered a
20 cacophony of divergent and competing creditor voices all of
21 whom were equally convinced that their view of the facts and
22 the law as applied to the Lehman universe was the one on a
23 sellable truth. They had diametrically opposed views on
24 substantive consolidation, recharacterization of intercompany
25 claims, the validity of guaranties and other critical elements

1 of the plan. Given that each of these issues drove values and
2 recoveries to one group of creditors at the expense of another
3 group, we originally thought that it was likely that a plan
4 that satisfied all key constituents would be unattainable in
5 these cases. More probable, there would be some group or
6 another that would decide that a litigated outcome would exceed
7 a settled one.

8 Against these long odds, the debtors and the committee
9 succeeded in crafting a plan that garnered near universal buy-
10 in from creditors. It proves what I believe is the wisdom and
11 propriety of the plan settlements. They were calibrated to
12 precisely reflect litigation probabilities. If those
13 calibrations were incorrectly said, one large group or another
14 would have failed to settle but would have instead viewed the
15 plan as having passed over the inflection point where litigated
16 outcomes would have been preferred.

17 The debtors, the committee and the other ad hoc groups
18 in the case took extreme pains to get it right and we did. As
19 a result, we are in a place, Your Honor, where we never thought
20 we'd be: standing before the Court seeking to confirm a plan
21 that faces minimal creditor opposition.

22 I will spend just a couple minutes giving the Court
23 the benefit of the committee's perspective on the plan. As
24 Your Honor knows well, the committee has been involved in every
25 aspect of the Chapter 11 cases since its formation. The

1 committee's professionals have worked closely with the estates
2 and the management and wind down of each of the debtors'
3 discreet asset classes. As we explained to the Court in our
4 written submission and as we discussed during the disclosure
5 statement hearing, the committee developed its own legal
6 theories and strategies regarding a wide array of matters
7 including appropriate allocation of value, distributable under
8 the plan to various classes of creditors. The committee has
9 reviewed and analyzed the key issues in these cases including
10 substantive consolidation, intercompany claim
11 recharacterization and the enforceability of various
12 guaranties. As a result of these independent analyses, the
13 committee, as a fiduciary, brought to bear on the plan process
14 a comprehensive knowledge of each debtor's assets and claims
15 pool as well as a global perspective on the key value drivers

16 From the very beginning, Your Honor, the centerpiece
17 of our proposed plan construct was a global settlement of all
18 the plan issues. As the Court is aware, the global settlement
19 concept was included in all the iterations of the Chapter 11
20 plan and it became a pillar of the plan.

21 Let me speak quickly about the one pending objection.
22 Dotson objects to the plan on the ground that it fails to
23 satisfy the standards of Section 1123(b) (3) and Bankruptcy Rule
24 9019. As explained by Mr. Miller and Ms. Fife, a Chapter 11
25 plan may include a settlement or adjustment of any claim which

1 the Court must evaluate under the appropriate approval standard
2 as set forth in Bankruptcy Rule 9019. The Court must find that
3 the settlement is fair and equitable and in the best interest
4 of the estate. A settlement should be approved so long as it
5 does not fall below the lowest point in the range of
6 reasonableness.

7 These plan settlements are the most critical component
8 of the plan. They represent a negotiated resolution of the
9 various plan issues and have garnered the support of creditors
10 asserting over 450 billion dollars in claims as well as several
11 fiduciaries appointed in the foreign insolvency proceedings of
12 eighty-seven affiliates. Such resolution benefits all the
13 debtors' creditors by avoiding prolonged and costly litigation.

14 The complexity of the controversy surrounding the
15 issue of substantive consolidation is evidenced by the
16 competing plans of reorganization filed by the two ad hoc
17 groups. These plans were based on diametrically opposed views
18 as to the propriety of substantive consolidation. And they
19 demonstrated, among other things, that colorable arguments
20 existed on both sides of the dispute

21 Mr. Miller and the debtors' submissions, including the
22 affidavit, have already addressed the Augie/Restivo factors at
23 length so I will not belabor the point. But I will emphasize
24 that at the outset of the Chapter 11 case, the committee
25 directed its legal and financial advisors to determine whether

1 sub-con of all or some of the debtors or substantive
2 consolidation of the debtors with some or all of the affiliates
3 was warranted and, if so, whether it would be an appropriate
4 result for the debtors' unsecured creditors.

5 In undertaking the analysis, the committee's advisors
6 investigated all aspects of the debtors' pre-petition
7 businesses relevant to the substantive consolidation inquiry
8 including information developed by the committee's financial
9 advisors, document discovery received from various sources,
10 public information available prior to the commencement of the
11 Chapter 11 cases, interviews with creditors and information
12 received from the debtor and from the examiner. In the end,
13 the committee recognized that (1) the cost of litigation to
14 resolve substantive consolidation would be substantial; (2) such
15 litigation would not provide any assurance of the outcome
16 deemed most favorable by the committee; and (3) a resolution of
17 such litigation might require several levels of appellate
18 review thereby postponing any prospect of an expeditious
19 distribution to the debtors' creditors of estate assets.

20 The committee concluded that an economic settlement
21 that bridged the gap between substantive consolidation and a
22 deconsolidated plan would be in the best interest of the
23 debtors' creditors.

24 We believe that this compromise is both consistent
25 with our substantive consolidation analysis and the settlement

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1 approval standard articulated by Second Circuit and that the
2 plan settlements are fair and equitable and should be approved
3 by the Court today.

4 So, Your Honor, the plan is a remarkable
5 accomplishment by all the parties involved. The fact that no
6 voting class has opposed the plan is a testament to the
7 carefully calibrated settlements embodied in the plan. As
8 importantly, it avoids years of litigation and allows
9 distributions to creditors to commence early next year. We ask
10 the Court to approve the plan and enter an order substantially
11 in the form filed by the debtors. Thank you, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Thank you.

13 MR. UZZI: Good morning, Your Honor. Gerard Uzzi on
14 behalf of the ad hoc group. Your Honor, I actually wasn't
15 planning on rising today.

16 THE COURT: That's okay.

17 MR. UZZI: But I thought there was just a few comments
18 I could make to that that were helpful to the specifics that
19 are before the Court today.

20 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

21 MR. UZZI: But before I do so, and to not rise again
22 later, I just must take this opportunity to thank the Court for
23 the opportunity that you've given us throughout these cases to
24 be heard throughout the cases and for your patience and for
25 your stewardship in this case.

1 I must also take this opportunity, Your Honor, to
2 thank really all the other professionals in the case in the way
3 that they've interacted with us, but, in particular, I really
4 have to thank and commend both Weil Gotshal and A&M for the way
5 they ran this case. I do think -- we said it in our papers.
6 I'll say it now and I'll say it again in the future. It is
7 truly a remarkable result today, certainly not one that I would
8 have predicted even as little as about six months ago. So,
9 really, my hats off to them and I think they deserve many more
10 accolades going forward.

11 With respect to the issue here -- I'd just like to
12 make a couple of brief points. And I certainly believe no
13 matter how small a creditor is that they deserve their day in
14 court. So I don't mean to pick on the objector here today.
15 But we've heard the use of about a million dollar claim.
16 Nobody's going to get par recovery in this case. At best,
17 maybe we're talking about twenty percent. So recoveries would
18 be at the LBHI level about 200,000 dollars. And then we're
19 hearing complaints about a twenty percent payover on 200,000
20 dollars. So very rough math, we're talking about 40,000
21 dollars in issue today. Just to frame this for the Court.

22 Now I'm particularly surprised, Your Honor, having
23 been the champion of, I think, the LBHI interest -- and I can
24 assure you we spent much more than 40,000 dollars pursuing and
25 protecting those interests -- that an LBHI creditor, whether

1 it be a guaranty creditor or any other creditor is standing up
2 here complaining about this settlement on the grounds that
3 there's no basis for substantive consolidation 'cause you need
4 to think about what the alternative is. And throughout these
5 cases, Your Honor, I know we've been phrased as the substantive
6 consolidation plan proponents, the substantive consolidation
7 champions. We have tried to step away from the use of the word
8 "substantive consolidation" because in many of our papers, we
9 said we think it oversimplifies the issues. It's a bookend.
10 We have sub-con on one end; we have non-con on the other end.
11 And we have countless, infinite probably, permutations in the
12 middle.

13 So what were the non-con plan proponents advocating?
14 They were advocating for the separate treatment of LBHI. And
15 all of the debtors. But what does that really mean? We need
16 to think about that. Well, the other thing they were
17 advocating for -- or if you look at the recovery analysis --
18 you'll look at LBHI's recovery analysis, you'll see over half
19 of the assets, the actual assets that LBHI receives are
20 recoveries on intercompany claims. Well, naturally, one of the
21 things the non-con plan proponents were going to argue was for
22 the disallowance of LBHI's claims against the affiliates.

23 So had we not had the settlement, an important part of
24 the settlement was a recognition or a compromise on those
25 intercompany claim issues. In fact, that was, for us, the

1 settlement. And so, what we have here is a recognition, a
2 realization, of twenty-five billion dollars worth of
3 distributable value on behalf of the LBHI that the objector
4 wants to put in his pocket and say, well, I have that already
5 and then complain about giving up 40,000 dollars.

6 So, you know, I just urge the Court in considering the
7 fairness of the settlement that -- and we've heard the term
8 "holistic" and -- the settlement maybe isn't pretty in its
9 machinations. But it's not just about substantive
10 consolidation. This creditor, I can assure you, would do much
11 worse -- and I don't think they've done the analysis. I don't
12 think they've run the math. They would do much worse under
13 what is the alternative outcome which, if we litigated, we
14 don't think would come to fruition. But I think just the cost
15 of getting there, and I know what my litigation budget was to
16 get there, would dilute his recoveries by more than 40,000
17 dollars, Your Honor.

18 That's all I have. If you have any questions for us,
19 Your Honor, obviously, we're happy to answer them. And again,
20 thank you, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Some day I'll ask you what your litigation
22 budget was.

23 MR. UZZI: Fair enough, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Okay. I think we're going to hear from
25 LBIE's counsel. Good morning.

1 MR. HUEBNER: Good morning, Your Honor. For the
2 record, I am Marshall Huebner of Davis Polk & Wardwell on
3 behalf of LBIE. Your Honor, I'm not going to engage in thanks
4 or congratulations because this is a contested hearing and
5 there is an objector. So I want to speak very briefly to the
6 objector and in support of confirmation.

7 Your Honor, with all due respect, I think Dotson has a
8 lot of nerve to file a seven-page objection, to take no
9 discovery, to present no evidence and to not proceed in any way
10 except to stand up for the first time at a confirmation
11 hearing I think speaks volumes about the nature of what is
12 really going on here. As Your Honor may remember, LBIE was not
13 yet settled at the disclosure statement hearing. And we were
14 prepared to proceed having blocked out two weeks of trial time
15 because that's actually what one probably should have done if
16 one believed that the settlement needed to be proven as
17 inappropriate.

18 THE COURT: I actually have that time. So we're all
19 set as a result of what you would do on your disclosure
20 statement.

21 MR. HUEBNER: Well, it would be the most interesting
22 cost benefit ratio for a 27,000 dollar possible benefit against
23 about twenty-seven million dollars of professional fees.

24 But, Your Honor, let me be very clear because the
25 world is much as Mr. Miller described it but actually even

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1 better because what we hope the Court does not do, 'cause I
2 don't think you have to do, is find that there is a twenty
3 percent risk of substantive consolidation. That's not the test
4 at all. You only need to find that the twenty percent
5 settlement is somewhere within the range of reasonableness of
6 some risk of substantive consolidation. And obviously, as a
7 foreign affiliate, possibly among the largest, we have strong
8 views on the risk and probabilities of the various sub-cons.
9 But you don't have to find any of that. You just have to find
10 that twenty percent is somewhere in the range of
11 reasonableness.

12 And, Your Honor, the legal objection -- I think the
13 best interest argument is going to be a very interesting one
14 for counsel to Dotson to make because when you read their
15 seven-page pleading -- and to be fair to them, I'm counting the
16 signature block and the captions and all those things -- what
17 you actually see is sort of nothing until the end. They
18 describe the nature of their claims and then they say the
19 debtors have presented no evidence of any of the factors of
20 sub-con. And they say that in a generic way with no reference
21 to any of the pleadings. And they cite a bunch of cases with
22 generic parentheticals. That is not a true statement. And
23 Your Honor knows that probably better than anyone because you
24 have read all the declarations, the evidence that is admitted
25 and uncontradicted that, in fact, goes to those factors. So

1 I'm not really sure how, in a clean conscience, they can sort
2 of say there's nothing here, Your Honor, to support the
3 settlement.

4 And then there is the legal theory that we heard this
5 morning which is really what they intend to explore today is a
6 best interest of creditors, you know, the argument that in a
7 liquidation, they would not suffer sub-con and thus would do
8 better. It's a very intellectually important and interesting
9 argument. But here's something that I think is worth thinking
10 about for context.

11 When you read their objection, the 1129(a)(7) argument
12 doesn't appear until the very end when they have an (a) through
13 (h) where they just list flat out sort of every legal theory
14 they could think of. There isn't even case law or
15 argumentation that I could find -- and I'm going to apologize
16 in advance. I read it rather quickly on a colleague's iPad
17 here in the courtroom. I don't think they even sort of made
18 their *prima facie* case except for tossing it in as one of the
19 theories.

20 So when you think about what it is that they have to
21 prove this morning, they have to essentially prove that they
22 will do better in a liquidation. That, in essence, means
23 proving that there is zero risk of substantive consolidation
24 and that they're entitled to, essentially, judicial notice that
25 in a liquidation analysis it must be assumed that the debtors

1 are inherently separate.

2 This is philosophically circular because exactly what
3 the settlement is designed to avoid is a full-scale blown-out
4 trial on the issue of what the risks of sub-con actually are.
5 And so, humbly, I would suggest that once you accept the legal
6 conclusion, as I think the Second Circuit has made very clear,
7 that a settlement is designed to avoid a mini trial on the
8 merits. It's designed to provide for only a canvassing of the
9 issues. These you have to sort of take as a given unless I
10 think you surprised a rather great number of participants that
11 there is at least some risk of sub-con. And once you decide
12 that there is at least some risk of sub-con, that some risk has
13 to be analogously applied to the best interest analysis and
14 they sort of lose as a matter of law.

15 So, again, it's not really my case other than to say
16 that we probably -- LBIE and its affiliates with twenty-six
17 billion dollars of reserved agreed gross claims against the
18 debtors had rather more than 878,000 dollars at stake and had a
19 rather strong impassionate view on the impropriety of sub-con
20 including of the foreign affiliates where, obviously, we stood
21 to lose a great deal. Which is why we both urge you not to
22 make any specific findings about the probability of sub-con
23 because there are lots of other states still ticking along but
24 merely to find exactly what the debtors have asked you which is
25 that twenty percent is a reasonable settlement. And speaking

1 for the tens of billions of dollars on our end that we're in a
2 similar situation, we think that confirmation should be
3 approved. Thank you.

4 THE COURT: Thank you. Are there any other parties
5 who wish to be heard in support of confirmation or in reference
6 to the global settlement or any other issue that we've been
7 discussing? All right. Mr. Miller?

8 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, if I might, I would like to
9 reply to Mr. Sullivan. As Mr. Huebner has pointed out, Your
10 Honor, if you look at the objection interposed on behalf of
11 Dotson, at paragraph 12, it says, "Consistent with the
12 foregoing", which is the objection to the sub-con risk, "the
13 creditors" -- and at that time, it was CDIB and Dotson --
14 "reserve their right to supplement the objection and to argue
15 any of the following at the confirmation hearing." One, Your
16 Honor, they never supplemented the objection. So, as Mr.
17 Huebner described, this is like a laundry list of possible
18 objections. And as he pointed out, the objection in
19 subparagraph 12(d), the plan's liquidation recovery analysis
20 does not sufficiently demonstrate that dissenting creditors
21 such as the Creditors would receive at least as much under the
22 Plan as under a Chapter 7 liquidation, in violation of
23 §1129(a) (7)."

24 When Mr. Sullivan stood here and responded to Your
25 Honor's question about how he was going to present his case,

1 the thrust of his argument was that the liquidation analysis
2 and the declaration by Mr. Cohn in support of the analysis of
3 the treatment of the claims is questionable because it assumes
4 that the same settlement would be made by a Chapter 7 trustee.

5 Now, Your Honor, I believe that that is a question of
6 law. And we have cited in our memorandum, and it is the law in
7 this circuit, as stated in a number of cases include Adelphia
8 Communications Corp. and in the Enron case and in the Capmark
9 Financial Group case, a Delaware case, that considering -- the
10 essence of all of these cases, Your Honor, stand for the
11 proposition that in doing the 1129(a)(7) test, the assumption
12 is proper and appropriate that the Chapter 7 trustee would make
13 the same settlements as contemplated in the Chapter 11 plan
14 because what you're comparing is the Chapter 11 plan versus a
15 Chapter 7 liquidation.

16 So if that's the argument of Dotson, Your Honor, as a
17 matter of law, he has to lose. And there really isn't any need
18 for cross-examination of Mr. Cohn if Your Honor rules that that
19 is the law. And if that's the only thing he's talking about,
20 is taking out the assumptions that go into the liquidation
21 analysis, he has not got any legal basis to do that, Your
22 Honor.

23 THE COURT: Okay. I think this may be a suitable time
24 for us to take a break. And I'm going to suggest a ten minute
25 break. And beyond suggesting a break, I'm going to suggest

1 that Mr. Sullivan think hard about what he's in the midst of
2 doing given the legal arguments that have been made not only by
3 Mr. Miller but by counsel for LBIE concerning the position that
4 he is articulating and the arguments that have been made by
5 counsel for the ad hoc committee and by counsel for the
6 creditors' committee.

7 He represents a creditor that is clearly entitled to
8 press objections and will have time to do that should he choose
9 to proceed. But it's also true that the objection was filed
10 jointly with another client of Moses & Singer, China
11 Development Industrial Bank, and that client which had joined
12 in the very same objection, withdrew the objection. I don't
13 think it's a proper use of the confirmation hearing to, in
14 effect, use an objection as a means of coercion to try to
15 obtain a deal. And that's one of the interpretations to be
16 drawn from Mr. Sullivan's earlier comments that he was, in
17 effect, trying to make a deal for his client. I think that the
18 value of that deal probably has gone down rather than up as a
19 result of standing in front of a tank. And I have this image
20 of Tiananmen Square except I don't see this as a principal in
21 command standing in front of the tank. I see this as someone
22 who is simply doing his best for his client. But there are
23 bigger issues before the Court than that.

24 So let's use the break for a couple of reasons. One,
25 we all need it. Two, I think it makes sense for Mr. Sullivan

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1 to think carefully about how he wishes to proceed so that we
2 can do this as efficiently as we can do it. And, three, it
3 might be worth having a conversation with other parties who
4 have been particularly active in the case to see if this matter
5 can be resolved. We'll take a ten minute break.

6 (Recess from 11:26 a.m. until 12:09 p.m.)

7 THE COURT: Be seated, please. Where do we stand at
8 this point?

9 MS. FIFE: Your Honor, Lori Fife on behalf of the
10 debtors again. I'm pleased to report that during the break, we
11 had an opportunity to meet with Mr. Sullivan on behalf of
12 Dotson. And he has agreed to withdraw his objection based on
13 the following deal:

14 The debtors have agreed to meet with Mr. Sullivan and
15 his client, if he chooses, within sixty days from the entry of
16 the confirmation order if the order is entered to discuss his
17 client's claim. We have made it clear to Mr. Sullivan that it
18 is the debtors' position that that claim is not an allowable
19 claim but we will, in fact, meet with him. We will provide
20 documents to him. And he's able to articulate any grounds for
21 the allowance of that claim. And with that, I believe, Mr.
22 Sullivan is willing to withdraw the objection, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Mr. Sullivan, can you confirm?

24 MR. SULLIVAN: That's correct, Your Honor. This is
25 James Sullivan. That's correct.

1 THE COURT: Okay. So with that, we now have a fully
2 consensual case which is really quite extraordinary.

3 MR. MILLER: I just rise, Your Honor, because there's
4 one commitment. One of the objectors was the city of Coppell
5 in Texas. And as part of the withdrawal of that objection, we
6 agreed to make a statement on the record, if I might, Your
7 Honor.

8 THE COURT: Go right ahead.

9 MR. MILLER: The statement is: "All secured claims
10 are entitled to interest to the extent permitted under Section
11 506 of the Bankruptcy Code to the extent of the value of the
12 collateral securing the claim and tax liens are retained until
13 the claims have been paid or the collateral is surrendered. In
14 each case, the debtors retain the right to object to or dispute
15 the asserted claim and validity of the lien on any basis."

16 That's the statement.

17 I would also point out, Your Honor, we are going to
18 make one minor change to the proposed order to accommodate the
19 United States trustee.

20 And there are two stipulations that have been filed,
21 Your Honor. On the agenda, items 63 and 64, notice of
22 presentment of stipulation and agreement by and among Fannie
23 Mae, Freddie Mac and the debtors regarding the third amended
24 plan. And number 64, notice of stipulation among debtors and
25 Fidelity National Title Insurance Company resolving disputes in

1 connection with plan.

2 With that, Your Honor, the debtors' case -- we rest.

3 THE COURT: Is there anything that any other party has
4 to present? Well, I did reserve two weeks on my calendar for
5 this. And I'm not sure how I'm going to use the next two
6 weeks.

7 In anticipation of today's hearing and as I was
8 watching the electronic docket and noting that a number of
9 objections that I had been reviewing were falling by the
10 wayside, and that this was becoming a remarkably consensual
11 confirmation hearing and, with the withdrawal of the Dotson
12 objection moments ago, now a completely consensual confirmation
13 hearing, I jotted down some thoughts that I wanted to express.
14 And I'm going to read them into the record because I gave these
15 words enough thought that I might as well follow the script
16 that I made for myself.

17 My world changed when the Lehman cases were assigned
18 to me and so did yours. For me, it has been a once in a
19 lifetime experience. To have worked across the bench from so
20 many outstanding professionals in promoting conflict resolution
21 and helping to bring these truly extraordinary one-of-a-kind
22 cases to this culminating substantive moment, superlatives
23 abound. And we have heard them all and probably used them all.
24 This is the biggest, the most incredibly complex, the most
25 impossibly challenging international bankruptcy that ever was.

1 But the greatest superlative of all is reserved for
2 today. This largest ever unplanned bankruptcy that started in
3 chaos, accelerated the financial crisis and eroded confidence
4 in the global financial system also has yielded the most
5 overwhelming outpouring of creditor consensus in the history of
6 insolvency law. What a difference three years can make.

7 Never before have divergent holders of 450 billion
8 dollars in claims recognized the benefits of pragmatic
9 compromise and come together as one in support of a single
10 Chapter 11 plan. This is a monumental achievement in our
11 field, awe-inspiring, really, that, to me, represents the
12 highest and best use of Chapter 11 in the public interest.

13 For myself, I'm extremely proud to have presided over
14 this transparent, fair and the remarkably successful process
15 that stands out as perhaps the finest example of the
16 flexibility, power and utility of the United States bankruptcy
17 system.

18 Our system is not perfect. But together we have shown
19 the world that it can work very well indeed. Lehman may once
20 have been a too-big-to-fail systemically significant global
21 financial institution. But it was not too big to resolve in
22 Chapter 11. I congratulate each and every professional in
23 every single law firm and advisory firm here and in foreign
24 jurisdictions that contributed in ways recognized and
25 unrecognized, large and small, to this historic confirmation of

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1 Lehman's plan. You should all feel great pride in what has
2 been accomplished.

3 And I wish each of you a happy and healthy holiday
4 season. Those who have worked so hard deserve a break. All
5 objections to confirmation that have not been withdrawn are
6 overruled. The plan is confirmed and an appropriate order will
7 be entered. And we're adjourned in time for lunch.

8 (Applause)

9 (Whereupon these proceedings were concluded at 12:17 p.m.)

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2 C E R T I F I C A T I O N

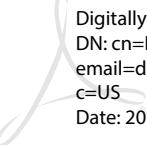
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4 I, Lisa Bar-Leib, certify that the foregoing transcript is a
5 true and accurate record of the proceedings.

6

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Lisa Bar-
Leib


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